

# The Sun

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1918.

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## The Senate's Knife Can Save the Liberty Loan.

Every time the Senate removes some of the evils of Kitchin's tax measure, as it has been doing this week, it helps to save the Fourth Liberty Loan from failure; it helps to rescue the country from disaster.

Kitchin's sectional malice is to strike anybody and everything north of Mason and Dixon's line. His economic hallucination is to hit a particular pocket which he wants to hurt. If we may judge by the way he writes tax provisions, Kitchin never thinks, or if he does, thinks last of all of raising revenue with success and safety; he thinks first of all of maiming somebody he doesn't like, of damaging something north of Mason and Dixon's line.

Kitchin, pursuing this policy, has not merely terrorized industry, business and individuals that are in a section hateful to him; he has knocked the props from under their credit. When a tax measure, working not as a revenue producer but as an avenging angel, has crippled or killed the credit of any productive agency it has all but exterminated the productive agency itself. A business may be heavily taxed and yet not endangered. It may be without surplus funds, but if it retains its credit it can borrow to take care of its emergency needs. It can borrow to buy Liberty bonds. It can borrow for any purpose that is sound or patriotic. But when its credit is gone—it makes no difference whether the fault is its own or Kitchin's—it has no power to borrow for any purpose whatsoever.

The Senate has given attention this week to obliterating some of Kitchin's pretended consumption taxes, which could not yield great revenue to the Treasury but which can and do injure the credit and stifle the enterprise of concerns whose economic activities are essential to the country. The Senate is reducing or taking away such taxes as are nothing in the world but sectional persecutions. It is substituting taxes which are not crushing to anybody, but which in the aggregate will produce vastly more revenue than ever could be produced by the provisions the Senate has rejected. The Senate, in a word, is ignoring or correcting Kitchin's sham consumption taxes. It is considering and devising genuine consumption taxes that will yield without slaughter a magnitude of funds for the Treasury.

And the Senate has only made a beginning. It can go incomparably further. It still has time to do this before the closing of the Liberty Loan subscription lists. It still has the opportunity to save the Fourth Liberty Loan. The Senate, in truth, has been driving the surgeon's knife into Kitchin's revenue measure. Thus far it has operated wisely, but it has not yet gone deeply enough. Indeed, every time the Senate knife removes some of the hideous growth it does no less than to try to take a cancer from the very vitals of the nation. The thing to do with a cancer is to cut it all out.

## The Double Failure of Germany in Turkey.

The outcome of events in Turkey may be watched by the civilized world with entire satisfaction and confidence. The Ottoman Empire, betrayed by the Young Turks, deceived by Germany, is paying the price of greed and gullibility. Its destruction has been wrought by corruption within which linked itself to cynical ambition abroad. Its collapse is now a matter of hours or days. Its past is abhorrent and its future is a blank.

Of one thing can the world be sure: German supremacy in Turkey can never be reestablished. In the period of its thudron to Teutonic influence not an atom of friendly feeling, of confidence in Germany as a nation or in Germans as individuals has been created; not a particle of whatever of good will may once have existed has been preserved. The Prussian system of intimidation, the Teutonic genius for alienating friendship, have produced their inevitable effect upon the Turks. Even while the selected representatives of Kul-

tur united with the fanatics of the Caliphate to exterminate the non-Mohammedan subjects of the Sultan their conduct was such as to inspire for them and their masters fear and hatred in the breasts of their fellow-men in mass.

The industrial, commercial, social and political results of this will be of far reaching consequence. In the harvest that will be reaped in peace from the seeds sown in war the physical impossibility of establishing the all German Berlin to Bagdad political and commercial empire will be complicated by an intangible but nevertheless effective popular antipathy to Kultur, its professors and its works of far reaching influence among Turks of all degrees.

## War Experts.

"We'll have peace by Christmas," says Mr. Lounge, room trader in stocks with other people's money and self-constituted military and diplomatic expert. He would bet money on his opinion if he could borrow it. This is only the fourteenth prediction of an imminent peace that he has made since August, 1914. He does not see why any one should buy Liberty bonds when Shoelaces Preferred is such an attractive investment.

"Peace is in sight," squeaks Gottlieb Sauerkopf, a gentleman who went for a case of champagne when he heard about the Lusitania. "We (he is speaking to an American) do not need to buy any more bonds. I know that everything is arranged."

"I hear the war is over," says Mrs. Paula Pinhead, gathering up her eighteen ounce spaniel. "I have only seen winter dresses, so away I go to spend that \$300 my husband gave me to buy Liberty bonds with."

"The war isn't over," whispers Private Smith, U. S. A., sent from Brabant to the hospital. "It's just beginning—the right way. It'll soon be over if the folks at home back us up the way they have always done. The war will start being over when every Hun is out of France and Belgium. How is the fourth loan going? Our people at home won't fail us when we're winning, will they?"

## What Appeal to Women Does Registration Lack?

What is the feminine appeal lacking in registration? What is missing that, if it had been supplied, would have caused all the fair voters to rush to the registration places on the first evening?

Registration is not a fashionable event, but American women, with America at war, are supposed to have broken from the ties of fashion. Would the registration of women be greater if the booths were in the department stores?

Is there no candidate for Governor or Congress who makes a particular appeal to women? It would be unfair to those courts and handsome men CHARLES S. WHITMAN and ALFRED E. SMITH to answer No, yet suppose a man of great magnetism, like Colonel Roosevelt, were a candidate for office!

Woman arrives at events not when man proposes, but when she decides it is time. Man waits while she adjusts her hat to the mysteriously accurate angle, and while it seems to her that the evening is half gone, she sees all of the play she wants to. Perhaps this explains why women have taken their time about registering. To-day and to-morrow are still left in which to qualify for the November vote.

But the woman who fails to register to-night or to-morrow is doomed to a sad future. When other women cry to her in chorus, "For whom are you going to vote?" she will have nothing to utter but a miserable confession of neglected opportunity.

## The American People Answer Prince Maximilian.

It is a fact of the most portentous significance, a fact that should be most illuminating and instructive to the rulers and the people of the German Empire, that the reaction of American public opinion in response to the Imperial Chancellor's note to the President of the United States has taken the form of a universal and unanimous demand that under no circumstances shall the Government of this nation become a party to a peace that may leave the Imperial German Government in the situation of a victor or in a position to repeat immediately or in the near future its assault on the peaceful peoples of the world.

The spontaneous unofficial reply to Prince Maximilian's message was complete, unquestioning rejection of any scheme that might comfort or sustain the Imperial German Government. This rejection was based on the conviction that no proposal from the present rulers of Germany could be conceived in honesty or put forward in sincerity.

Whatever adverse criticism has been uttered with respect of President Wilson's reply to Prince Maximilian's note has arisen from a profound desire that by no trick of diplomacy should the public determination to rid Germany and the world of that nation's present conscienceless masters be misrepresented or modified to our own people, to the Allies, or to the men and women of the enemy countries. Wherever fear has been shown that the President's reply was inadequate to the occasion, that fear has recorded no tolerance of a peace without victory, but only insistence on the complete overthrow of the forces that plunged the world into war.

From no reputable or responsible source in public or in private life has there come a word of regret that the President proved unresponsive to the German suggestion, or because his an-

## THE BRIDGE BUILDER.

Washington A. Roebeling Corrects Some Current Inaccuracies.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: When ever a Roebeling dies in Trenton he is immediately credited with having built the Brooklyn Bridge. The last one is my brother Charles. I furnished the information contained in the obituary published in a Trenton paper. The reporter thought it would enhance the article by adding the Brooklyn Bridge to the other really great achievements of Charles G. Roebeling.

My late brother was still at school when I took charge of that bridge. After graduation he entered the Roebeling business in Trenton and continued there as head of the engineering department until his death. He was not connected with the Brooklyn Bridge as engineer.

Another claimant is brought forward in the name of T. G. Batterson of Hartford, who is now supposed to have built the mammoth work of the piers, approaches and abutments.

This is absolutely untrue. This masonry was all built by day's work on the ground under charge of my own foremen and engineers.

Batterson did build a small monument for my father's grave, and may have had an interest in one of the many Grand quarries furnishing granite for the structure.

As for Brunel's plans being followed, that is the height of nonsense. This simply shows how history can be distorted as the years go by.

WASHINGTON A. ROEBELING.  
Engineer of the Brooklyn Bridge.  
TRENTON, N. J., October 10.

## THE COLD IN THE HEAD.

It May Be Confused With the More Serious Influenza.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: I called at the home of a friend of mine yesterday forenoon and found him in bed. He said a physician had been consulted and told him he had influenza "bad," and should stay in bed at least two weeks. I did not think his case so desperate as all that and persuaded him to see my family physician, who, after a few questions, said his ailment was only a common, ordinary "cold in the head," which would pass away in a day or two, but he would give him something to hurry it along. He thereupon prescribed a camphorated salve to be inhaled, and after a few hours until relieved. My friend phoned me this evening that he was quite well.

Might not the number of actual cases of influenza be much less than is daily published if all the "reported" cases could be carefully investigated? Is it not possible that in many instances an intense attack of fever or a transient cold in the head may be diagnosed as influenza even by fairly competent physicians? L. G. C.  
New York, October 10.

## SPENDING THE BILLIONS.

The Need of a Republican Congress to Check Extravagance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: After raising the enormous sums of money for the war, the Government is now spending the money. It is so important to them, to the country and to the winning of the war as to safeguard its careful expenditure. This the Republicans in Congress tried to do by attempting to create a joint committee to scrutinize and check by exposure unnecessary outlay. This plan was defeated, the purpose of the committee was to interfere in no way with the prosecution of the war. The Democrats, under orders from the White House, killed it.

The election of a Republican Congress will insure the immediate creation of such a committee. Had it been in existence the enormous sums of money being taken from taxpayers would have been thrown away or worse in an aeroplane mistake. Gross extravagance and waste are still rampant, and nothing but a change will stop them.

In addition, as THE SUN so forcibly points out, a Republican Congress will retire Kitchin and put an end to his ignominious and sectional method of taxation. A. H.  
RAMAPO, October 10.

## TRADE BRIEFS.

The American Minister stationed at Lisbon, Portugal, has been asked to send a large Portuguese firm are sending representatives to the United States to arrange, in addition to present business, connections for after the war.

Life insurance is becoming general in New Zealand. The State has one large insurance company. Two of the private insurance companies are American with 1,953 policies, covering a total insurance of \$3,645,172.

The Spanish Government has enacted a law regarding the distribution of phosphate and other mineral deposits which can be adapted to use as fertilizers or serve as a basis for the manufacture of such.

The Board of Trade of New Zealand has been authorized by the Government to take charge of the distribution of gasoline benzene and motor spirits. At present the supply is fairly satisfactory, but stocks are not sufficient to carry over for any great length of time.

The United States has been asked at the port of Cardenas, Cuba, to consume approximately 25,000 tons of American coal yearly.

The use of rigid iron conduits in Valencia, Spain, is very limited. The majority of Spanish houses have no inside wiring as the rigid conduits are not used. The apartment is left vacant the tenant takes with him the electrical installation.

Official figures relating to the 1918 acreage and yield of the various crops in the Province of Ontario, Canada, show a fall wheat yield of 7,150,000 bushels.

Importation of India rubber in July, 1918, from British East India amounted to 40,448,559 pounds, as compared with 27,400,775 pounds in July, 1917, an increase of almost 48 per cent.

The potentialities of Rhodesia, Africa, as a mining country have once again been demonstrated by the discovery of what is stated by experts to be the largest deposit of high grade chrome in the world. The discovery was made by Albert Prakes of Longwood, Africa, over twelve months ago.

Before the Dawn.  
From the People's Home Journal.  
It comes! Glad triumph comes! It gleams afar!  
In the cold colors of the pale star  
It comes in loneliness it glows!

Who springs with pride to join the rank  
And follow him who leads the van?  
It comes! With calmness and with cheer!  
It blooms.  
On beds of thousands sleeping in the earth  
In red and white and blue—war's cloud  
The flowers that bloom in front of glad rebirth.

It comes! It must—in honor of the slain!  
On the Great Cities.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Will you kindly state the population and area of the city of London, as compared with those of Greater New York? R. O'G.  
New York, October 10.

In 1911 the county and city of London had a population of 4,531,685. Greater London, which includes all of Middlesex and parts of Surrey, Kent, Essex and Hertfordshire, held 7,551,258. New York's population in 1911 was 4,582,159. In 1917, 6,767,423.

## CAN A CITIZEN BE MADE TO VOTE IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO VOTE?

Compulsory Amendment Up in Massachusetts on Election Day—Arguments Set Forth for the Measure.

Boston, October 10.—As a result of the Constitutional Convention which adjourned recently Bay State voters will have an opportunity on election day to express their opinions on nine proposed changes in the State constitution. It is apparent already that not more than three of these proposed changes are inviting much popular debate. One of them provides the initiative and referendum. The other two permit the Legislature to establish compulsory voting and biennial elections. The biennial election was overwhelmingly defeated when up for a vote once before.

Many believe that the real contest over the work of the convention is centering round the initiative and referendum. Indeed, it is declared that the same forces of the commonwealth are focusing their battle on this single issue, leaving the others to take care of themselves at the hands of the Legislature. The initiative and referendum, and yet opinions are freely expressed to the effect that it will require a strong and aggressive campaign to defeat the measure. William R. Hearst, its lifelong promoter, has been hammering away at it for years, exercising through his journals here sharp criticism of the Legislature. He is now venturing to oppose it. It is not believed that the people as a whole really want it, and so every effort is being made to arouse the voters of Massachusetts, and it is now very generally said that the rally to the defense of the representative form of government is being called.

In one way "compulsory voting" is a misnomer. What is aimed at is not so much "compulsory voting" as creating an incentive to vote. It is not a time for such a lurch into Bolshievism: as the initiative and referendum would permit.

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## SENATORS MODIFY KITCHIN JEWEL TAX

Committee Talks of Knocking Out Entirely the Levy on Clocks and Watches.

LUXURY ITEMS APPROVED  
Thomas Proposes Prohibitive Assessment on Campaign Contributions Over \$300.

Special Despatch to THE SUN.  
WASHINGTON, Oct. 10.—The Kitchen bill received a little more rough treatment from the Senate Finance Committee in its one session to-day. To begin with the committee struck from the bill the House provision that in addition to the regular tax on jewelry of 10 per cent. of its selling price, jewelry having platinum in its makeup should be subject to an additional 10 per cent. tax. The committee felt that it was the desire of the Government to prevent the sale of platinum in order to conserve it for war purposes its sale should be prohibited and the stocks on hand taken over.

When dealing with the jewelry tax the committee struck out the provision exempting from the 10 per cent. tax on jewelry sales dealers who sell jewelry as a side line and whose sales do not exceed \$200 a year. The committee was unable to see why this provision was a necessity or why it was put in at all. The out and out luxury tax schedule was approved with one exception. The committee passed over for future consideration the inclusion of all watches and clocks, except watches purchased by officers and men of the army and navy, under the luxury schedule.

Opposes Tax on Timepieces.  
In the discussion of this part of the bill the committee leaned toward leaving it out, but the House entirely, except those costing more than a certain amount to be decided upon later.

Senator Thomas (Col.) introduced an amendment designed to levy a prohibitive tax on political contributions in excess of \$500. As his amendment would place a 100 per cent. tax on the excess of any contribution above \$500, the cause of any candidate in either primary or general election. This would apply to the contributions of persons and corporations as well.

The Thomas amendment would require committees to make returns to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and all political committees, county, State and national, to declare the source of all contributions made to them within thirty days after any election is held.

While the committee was at work Senator Kallahan (Maine) on the floor of the Senate attacked the constitutionality of the provision in the Kitchen bill for taxing the salaries of State, county and municipal officials and the income from the securities issued by States, counties and municipalities.

Defends State Sovereignty.  
"The necessities of the war do not justify the Government in laying hands upon the sovereignty of the States," the Minnesota Senator said. "The continuance of our dual form of government, the stability, independence and effectiveness of the State and municipal governments are of the greatest importance to the peace and happiness of the nation and the perpetuity of our institutions."

"I do not believe that there exists such an exigency in the Federal Government as to require this dangerous and doubtful experiment. The Secretary of the Treasury has stated that it will yield but little revenue. Another thing—the tax is not levied upon the income of bonds hitherto issued—only upon those issued after the war began. Some of these have been sold at a profit. The Federal Government are marshalled let us not under the guise of a necessary undertaking to do the very fundamental principles upon which the Federal and State governments maintain their separate existence."

Cesar Barja, in May, 1917, prepared a pamphlet on compulsory voting in Spain, in which he said:

The introduction of compulsory voting in Spain was due to the waning negligence of the Spanish people in attending the polls, owing to two factors—ignorance and lack of interest. The condition of political life in Spain is just the same to-day as before the new electoral law went into effect. Badoglio has not been destroyed, and no more electors vote than before. It is not enough to say that at least one-third of the people who have the right of suffrage do not vote at all. . . . I have no statistical information as to how many of the electors nor the punishments inflicted, but in the ten years which have elapsed since the law went into effect I do not know of any case in which the punishment provided was not carried out. . . . I know of hundreds of cases in which electors, even whole districts, did not vote at all.

Leo J. Frankenthal, Vice-Consul to Bern, Switzerland, 1908, speaking of compulsory voting in Switzerland, said:

Voting is obligatory on canonical matters in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland. St. Gallen, Aargau and Thurgau. These Cantons show average votes of from 70 to 80 per cent; but the obligatory measure is not rigorously enforced